Viren Realty 5301 Atlantic Ave Long Beach Ca 90805 428-7576
home 424-0063 131 W36 Long Beach

Dear Jim, Assassins committee Hall hearing 6/7/77

Well, what the committee has thought and said of me in the past is nothing to what I can expect now.

When you left me off I went directly to the committee's hearing room, one of fairly large capacity, close to completely full. I got to sit next to Scott, behind Bum, who had Dick Billings with him and Kathy.

It was late but the hearing had not started. I was as far away from the witness table as possible in the room save for one seat. While I was talking to Scott, very soon after I sat there, Hall has come over to me. Of all the people in the room. His voice carries. After a few words he said he wanted to get together with me when the session was over. I waited and he did, with his lawyer, accompanied by a recent law graduate. We left together, with Gardner, who I thought might find the experience interesting so Hall invited him.

I did not leave the seat until we left. You know the trip on the crowded bus was a bit much. (I'm glad the FBI agents didn't mind my walking around like a college professor but that did help. I also think that went about as well as we could expect.)

We all went to the Sheraton. When the first cab had people in it George and I awaited the next. They had gone to their rooms and were back in the lobby when we got there. We all went to the Park Pub and stayed there until the lawyer came here for some records I thought he should have. We drank, extensively, and it was all very friendly.

Hall began by giving me these credentials to George and his lawyer: I don't agree with all they write but the only two honest writers I have ever had any dealing with are Hal and Art Kevin. They are both always honest.

What surprised me, because I have always thought he may not know what is truthful and what some of his soldier-of-fortune dreams, is that he was completely faithful to my recollection of our long interviews if 2/68. (His lawyer learned a lot Hall had not told him, too, as he told me later.)

There were stories I had not heard before and I'm sure there are others.

Because it was understood - I saw to it - that unless otherwise agree it was all off the record, I made no notes and I'm not going to now. This was to protect Hall against a big spread in the Post. (And won t the committee have another conniption when they learn Gardner was with us!) George made a few notes afterward.

The committee part was strange. They were late dtarting and they ran a few minutes only. Hall gave his name and city only and then took the fifth only. They then asked him only if he was in Dallas 11/22/63 and he again took the fifth. Preyer than said there seemed to be no point in proceeding and Thone said he thought they should agree to keep the subpoena in full force and effect and Preyer asked ie he would agree to return and testify on September 14 and Hall said less, that he'd be back. That was it and I think it signifies something they are cooking up, Three months ahead is a bit unusual, too.

It turns out that this was virtually rehearsed. They told Hall and his lawyer,also his Kansas cousin, Bryson Mills, exactly what would happen.

They also told them as I told Art that they have Weberman's tape of his phone conversaation with Hall. And what was supposedly destroyed, something that was stolen from hall's home for me. Not that I knew anything about it until after the fact, when Billings sent Acoca out for it and Acoca reported he had not gotten it and my source told me his associate has gotten scared and destroyed all. Weird.

Lawyer is Bryson Mills. His associate is Marthy whose last name I never got. Seemingly bright and pleasant young woman who is becoming a clerk to a federal district judge. You may hear. I urged use of PA vs all agencies now that they have three months and I told him about several decisions.

I did not look around the room. I spoke briefly to Bud and Kathy and Billings, Mark and Scott, and at the end was talking to Kevin when Hall came up for us to leave.

You can't get much farthur to the right than Hall but in his way he is a pleasant fellow who wants to be friendly. He offered to meet me at the airport, put me up and even lend me a car when I'm out there end of next week. I think he meant it. He is under no illusions about my beliefs.

Because I did not move around I missed what even if I discount for exaggeration must have been a thoroughly professional cussing out of Lane. I suppose Lane started making one of his speeches or something. Hemming also was there but I did not see him. If he was well inside or went out the other door I'd not have seen him or he me.

If I'm going to have meeting and drink I prefer the Sheraton over the Calrton. You remember I drank all the Irish the Carlton had with Walter. Well, that didn't happen at the Sheraton after twice as much- and the Post picked up the tab all around.

If I had seen Rawls there I'd have asked him along with Hall's okay, and, I think on my recommendation he would have agreed. I saw others I did not suggest. I don t know what if anything will influence the major media but if there is anything it is openness and accuracy. Relative to the immediate, Lardner at least knows how open Hall would have been if not abused and endangered. This does address the assassins committee. George and I were not with them for about a half hour because of the different cabs. It happens that all my backgroubding was accurate, after so long a time. On Odio, for example, Hall said he just does not know, that he could have, if not the way she says, or he might not have. This is on the question of being there.This is what I recalled and had told George. The FBI has the two other versions. Yes and No.

The AIB had a handout in which they used my interview. I did not give it to them. Or to anyone else, although I intended it for Garrison, that being the purpose of my seeing Hal.. Rather getting him to go to N.O. I have not read it yet. This has been interrupted by several phone calls, one long and on other matters, so it may not be as comprehensible as it could be.

One call, approvingly, was form a reporter on the Rawls story. I guess that now that I'm past a proper bedtime I'll read it abed. Hastily,